

Safety Advisory Committee
May 15, 2009
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Minutes

Committee Member	Representing	Present
Banda, Michael J.	Computing Sciences Directorate	X
Bello, Madelyn	Human Resources Advisor	X
Blodgett, Paul M.	Environment, Health and Safety Division	X
Dubon, Oscar	Materials Sciences Division	
Floyd, Jim	Safety Advisory Committee Chair	X
Fujikawa, Brian	Nuclear Science Division	X
Kadel, Richard W.	Physics Division	X
Kostecki, Robert	Environmental Energy Technologies Division	X
Li, Derun	Accelerator & Fusion Research Division	X
Lukens Jr., Wayne W.	Chemical Sciences Division	X
Martin, Michael C.	Advanced Light Source Division	X
Nakagawa, Seiji	Earth Sciences Division	X
Petzold, Christopher J.	Physical Biosciences Division	X
Pollard, Martin	Genomics Division	
Sopher, Ted	Information Technology Division	
Taylor, Scott E.	Life Sciences Division	X
Thomas, Patricia M.	Safety Review Committee Secretary	X
Twohey, Daniel	Directorate/Operations	X
Wong, Weyland	Engineering Division	X

Others Present: Michael Carr, Brandon De Francisci, Mary Gross, Jim Krupnick, Peter Lichty, Mike Ruggieri, Bill Wells, Mike Wisherop

Chairman's Comments – Jim Floyd

Introductions, Charter and Path Forward –

Jim Floyd was introduced as the new Committee Chair.

There was a question about whether new appointment letters would be needed for division representatives, due to the changes in the charter. Jim Krupnick agreed that Division Directors should discuss the changes with their Safety Review Committee Representatives and then send their nominations for Safety Advisory Committee Representatives to Paul Alivisatos, who will make the appointments. Every Division Director should re-think who would be the right Representative for the level of effort expected.

Under the new charter, the Committee reports to the Chief Operating Officer (COO), and advises the EH&S Director. The COO and Lab Director will meet with the committee at least quarterly. The new mission statement describes the Committee's role in helping to ensure that policies succeed. A collaborative approach will be important. Committee members will be expected to commit time to help work on issues and provide constructive input, similar to the way the Subcommittees have operated. The changes required by the Health, Safety, and Security (HSS) audit will provide opportunities for the Committee to have a useful voice.

Richard Kadel commented that he saw a conflict between reporting to the COO and making recommendations to the EH&S Director. He suggested that recommendations of the Committee should be sent directly to the COO, to establish clear roles and paths of authority. Wayne Lukens suggested that recommendations could be sent to both the COO and EH&S Director. Jim Krupnick said that as the current COO, he has delegated day-to-day responsibility for ES&H policies to the EH&S Director, and he does not see a conflict in sending recommendations directly to EH&S. The Committee will always have a path to the COO if there is a conflict or issue with the EH&S Division Director. The Committee will have an important role in helping to ensure regulatory compliance and usability of new requirements. Scott Taylor noted that the charter states that in unusual cases of serious disagreement, final recommendations may also be forwarded to the COO for review. Michael Martin commented that in actual practice, Committee members will be working directly with EH&S Subject Matter Experts most of the time to help develop policies. Jim Krupnick reminded Committee members that it is to be an advisory committee and they do not have Line Management authority.

Jim Floyd said that the Committee needs to be more active in controlling our agenda. He wants to put more time into the most important issues that impact all Divisions. These will not be just PUB-3000 changes. PUB-3000 has about 600 pages. Some changes, such as the seismic safety change discussed in the last meeting, don't have a major impact on all Divisions.

Scott Taylor asked about whether the Committee will be expected to do MESH reviews this year. Jim Krupnick said MESH is in the Corrective Action Plan for this year. Mary Gross added that it is also a DOE performance measure. (Update: Subsequent to the meeting, DOE agreed to suspend this year's MESH reviews. It was agreed that the HSS audit served the function of a management of ESH review.) Jim Krupnick said that the commitment doesn't specify exactly how the MESH is to be done. Jim Krupnick and Jim Floyd asked Pat Thomas to send them a list of the MESH reviews scheduled for this year. Jim Floyd would like to have more focused MESH reviews, based on a discussion of topics to be reviewed with each Division Director. Jim Floyd estimates that the usual level of effort for Committee members will be about 1 day per month, but extra efforts will be needed during MESH reviews.

Richard Kadel noted that the new charter says that the EH&S Division Director or Division Deputy will attend SAC meetings, and they were not present at this meeting.

Minutes of April Meeting – The minutes will be revised to reflect that Paul Blodgett was in attendance.

Minor revisions to PUB-3000 – Mike Wisherop reported that Chapter 8 Electrical Safety has been amended to extend the deadline to August 31 for implementing Activity Hazard Documents for high-voltage electrical work. Weyland Wong commented that changing the due date will not solve the problem. We need a project plan and milestones. A template for electrical AHDs needs to be created and added to the AHD database. This will require some programming. It will take time to teach people how to use the database to produce the new AHDs. Michael Banda commented that Facilities electrical work is different from experimental electrical work and the AHDs may require different formats. We may need a more robust pilot program and examples. The new requirements are being developed in response to a Corrective Action Plan for electrical safety. The consensus of the Committee was that the Committee Chair should contact Richard DeBusk and Keith Gershon to request a plan, schedule, and realistic date for implementation.

Subcommittee on chemical explosion incident prevention-- At our previous meeting, Paul Alivisatos requested that a subcommittee be formed to look at ways of preventing chemical explosion incidents similar to the one that occurred on campus when acid was mixed with aqua regia waste. Don Lucas, Erik Anderson, and Jerry Bucher are among the people who have volunteered so far. Committee members who are interested in participating should contact Jim Floyd. Committee members requested an update on the chemical explosion incident investigation from Rick Kelly at the next meeting. They would like to know what immediate actions have been taken.

HSS Corrective Action Plan update -- LBNL is halfway through the 60-day period to prepare and obtain approval for our Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Jim Krupnick, Howard Hatayama, Mary Gross, and Buck Koonce, met with George Malosh and Tom Staker. Tom Staker said that he appreciated the openness and cooperative attitude during the review of LBNL. During the next couple of weeks, the Steering Committee will be working on estimating the costs and schedules for the corrective actions. We don't know exactly what all the new processes will look like. LBNL identified two common causes needing corrective action to prevent recurrence of similar findings: improving project management and accountability systems. Next week, the finding owners will be contacting interested parties who want to participate in the CAP process. There was a question about how the SAC will be involved. There will be opportunities for working out the details of the corrective actions. The Lessons Learned and Injury and Illness Prevention CAPs have more details than some of the others. The draft CAPs are posted on the HSS Review website at: http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/ism/2009/info_divisions.shtml Committee members who want to volunteer to help with particular issues should contact Anita Gursahani.

Other discussion –

- There was a request for a report on Job Hazards Analysis (JHA) requirements. There are June and September deadlines. Divisions need more guidance on what

is expected this year, and what to expect long-term. There are questions about the threshold for low-level hazards. The interpretation of “work commonly performed by the public” is not clear. There are questions about whether the JHA is the appropriate authorizations system long-term. LBNL will be benchmarking with other National Labs.

- There was a question about the procedure for changing the LBNL ISM Plan to reflect the changes in the Committee charter. Bill Wells requested recommendations about how the text should be changed.
- Weyland Wong noticed that the Committee charter does not address how Subcommittee members are appointed.

Proposed Policy on Transportation of Research Samples –There were problems with links in the draft. This policy is still being worked on, and the people working on it are not available at this meeting. We expect to be discussing this policy at the next meeting.

Other topics for the next meeting include the electrical AHDs, the status of the electrical equipment survey, the investigation report for the chemical explosion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM

Respectfully submitted, Patricia M. Thomas, SAC Secretary